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Quotable: Chuck Meisel '84

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the department's new Office of Innovation. She will lead South Carolina's state effort to support and further grow an innovative, technology-based, and entrepreneurial business environment. Previously, Love was a marketing and communications director at the department, and was part of a start-up team that launched New Carolina—South Carolina's Council on Competitiveness, serving as deputy executive director. She is a graduate of Leadership South Carolina (LSC) class of 2007, served on the LSC Board of Trustees, and is a fellow of the seventh class of the Liberty Fellowship.

Sara Mays Nastopoulos has been promoted to executive director of the Ernst & Young accounting firm in Atlanta. She has more than 11 years of experience with the firm.

1997 **A. Parrish Clark, Jr.**, executive vice president, Guardian Bank, Valdosta, GA, has been elected by his peers as president-elect of the Leadership GBA Executive Committee of the Georgia Bankers Association, an organization created in 1958 and committed to developing the future leaders of the banking industry.

Jason W. Searl, an attorney with GrayRobinson in Orlando, FL, has been reappointed to the City of Orlando Municipal Planning Board.

Richard Sizemore has returned to Macon, GA, to join the Sell & Melton law firm as a partner. He began his career at King & Spalding LLP.

1998 Last November,

Michael Hix was presented the Thomas Hampson Award by the American Musicological Society. Provided by the Hampson Foundation, the award supports research in the area of art song. He also received a grant given by the German Academic Exchange Club. The award and the grant will assist him in his research on DDR composer Paul Dessau and his residency at the music archives of the Akademie der Kuenste in Berlin. He made his Carnegie Hall solo debut singing the baritone solos in Rutter's *Mass of the Children*, followed by operetta performances. Recent performances included solo appearances with the New Mexico Philharmonic, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, CanticumNovum, and Tucson Chamber Artists.

J. Austin Hood has been named managing member of the Columbia, SC, office of the Clawson & Staubes law firm.

1999 **Daniel Carter** has been named a principal at Ascendient Healthcare Advisors, with offices in Durham, NC, and Washington, D.C. He has been a managing consultant at Ascendient, one of the nation's 50 largest firms in health care management consulting, since 2001.

Wayne Gregory, Jr., is economic development director for the city of Columbia, SC, after having served in a similar capacity in Georgetown County, SC, since 2005. He also worked in Greenville County's development corporation.

2000 **Ellen Culbertson Abramo** of Gilbertsville, PA, released a new single, "Rise (Above the

Flood)," in July 2013. The song was also performed as a choreographed ballet dance by Premiere Dance Studio in Pennsylvania.

Walter L. Booth, Jr., has joined the Atlanta office of Stites & Harbison, PLLC. Booth earned his J.D. from Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law in 2013, where he was a member of the mock trial team and student government, and was southern region director of corporate relations of the National Black Law Students Association. Prior to joining Stites & Harbison, he worked in the financial services industry.

Greenville businessman and athlete **Drew Parker** completed two iron-distance triathlons over the weekend of October 10–12, 2013. Donations for the challenge through his charitable organization, YouthOutpost, were in support of the Frazee Dream Center, a free preschool, after-school, and summer program serving Greenville's underprivileged youth ranging in age from 3–16.

2001 **Dodd Caldwell** has partnered with his friend Ryan Wood to launch MoonClerk, an all-in-one solution to accepting recurring and one-time online payments via the payment processor Stripe. Their concept allows small-business owners, not just developers and technically gifted people, to work with Stripe. Caldwell also serves as president of his family's faith-based nonprofit Rice Bowls, which helps organizations collect money to feed the hungry around the world.

When Barack Obama spoke at the White House in February to announce the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative, he spoke of **Maurice Owens**, who works

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"Don't be afraid to fail and deal with that failure. Pursue that which challenges and stimulates you as well as what puts you in the company of those you enjoy being around. While a history degree didn't prepare me for what I do today, the examination, exploration, and debate of what took place years ago gave me an appetite to explore and challenge conventional thinking with ammunition. I encountered failure at Furman but didn't let it stop me; it was only a new hurdle."

Chuck Meisel '84 is the vice president of business development at Poplar Healthcare. Meisel has been gathering with fellow 1984 alumni, led by **Mark Crosby** and **John Allen**, for an annual reunion in Arkansas for more than 30 years.